

Wisconsin Forestry Notes

November 2003

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Rep. John Gard has named a Task Force on Forestry to conduct a full inventory and assessment of Wisconsin's forested lands. They are expected to issue a report to the Assembly Speaker and the Legislature in early 2004.

Legislative task force assesses forestry

The Speaker's Task Force on Forestry held its first meeting on October 9th. The Task Force has been charged to conduct a full inventory and assessment of Wisconsin's forested lands. It is expected to issue a report to the Assembly Speaker and Legislature in early 2004.

Assembly Speaker John Gard (R – Peshtigo) chose Representative Donald Friske (R – Merrill) to Chair the task force. “We’re going to take a basic & scientific approach to this,” Task Force Chairman Friske said. “We’re going to assess the health and fire issues of all the forested lands in the state; including federal forests, state forests, county forests, school forests and privately held forestland.”

The focus of the task force's first meeting was on ‘other’ state lands including fishery areas, wildlife areas, natural areas, flowages, resources areas, and state parks. The topic of the second meeting was forest protection. Focus for other meetings is tentatively as follows:

- Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, County Forests and School Forests
- Private, industrial and non-industrial forest lands and Federal forests
- State Forests

Speaker Gard has appointed a number of public and private experts in the field of forestry to assist with the inventory and assessment.

Representative John Ainsworth: He recently served as chairman of the Committee on Rural Affairs & Forestry in 2001-2002 and currently serves as Vice-Chairman on the Assembly Committee on Forestry.

Gene Francisco: Mr. Francisco served in the Department of Natural Resources for 34 years and was appointed and served as Wisconsin's Chief State Forester from 1998 until January of 2003.

Representative Donald Friske (Chair): Rep. Friske is the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Forestry. He has also served on the Governor's Council on Forestry since 2002.

Dr. Robert Govett: Professor Govett has worked for UW Stevens Point in the College of Natural Resources since 1991.

Dan Kretz: Mr. Kretz is the owner of Kretz Lumber in Antigo, WI. He obtained his degree in forestry in 1970, and has he applied his knowledge in nearly every aspect of forestry for the past 33 years.

Colette Matthews: Mrs. Matthews has served as the Executive Secretary of the Wisconsin County Forests Association since 1989.

Representative Dan Meyer: Representative Meyer represents the 34th Assembly District, which contains a large portion of forested lands owned and operated by both the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands and the Department of Natural Resources.

Don Nelson: Mr. Nelson is employed as the Procurement Forester by the Packaging Corporation of America in Tomahawk, WI. He received a degree in forestry from UW Stevens Point and has 16 years of experience in the needs of both Wisconsin's forest products industries and forest management.

Pat Schillinger: Mr. Schillinger serves as President of the Wisconsin Paper Council.

Elroy Schmidt: Mr. Schmidt played a significant role in the development of the Managed Forest Law. Mr. Schmidt worked as a logger his entire career. He also served 26 years as Town Chairman of the Town of Corning in Lincoln County.

Jerry Vande Hei: Mr. Vande Hei served in a number of DNR positions including manager and superintendent of Black River State Forest, DNR forestry liaison to Menomonee Tribal enterprises, and spent 1973 – 1995 in the central office of the DNR's Forest Management Section of the Forestry Bureau. Mr. Vande Hei also served as the State Chair of Wisconsin Society of American Foresters.

Forestry cooperatives are a growing movement across the nation - and here in Wisconsin. In a cooperative, landowners share the costs of forest management, processing and marketing. Cooperatives can complement other landowner assistance programs such as the American Tree Farm System and woodland owner groups such as the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association.

Forestry cooperatives satellite conference

Several downlink sites have been established in Wisconsin for a national satellite conference about forestry cooperatives. This interactive conference is scheduled for November 18, 2003 1:30 to 4:00pm, CST. It is designed for natural resource professionals, but is open to anyone with an interest in forest management and cooperatives.

By participating in the session, you can:

- Hear about the experiences of forestry cooperative initiatives from other states;
- Learn more about forestry cooperatives, what they are, where they are and why they exist.
- Find out how forestry cooperatives fit with other landowner assistance programs.

The Wisconsin downlink sites include:

Madison

UW-Madison Campus at the Pyle Center (Just off State Street, beside the Red Gym)
702 Langdon Street, Madison, WI 53706

Register for the Madison site (registration is FREE, but required) by sending an e-mail to forext@calshp.cals.wisc.edu or by calling (608) 262-9975. Include your name, phone number, and e-mail. If you have registration questions, please contact [Scott Bowe](#) at (608) 262-5849.

Burnett County

Contact [Mike Kornmann](#)
(715) 349-2151

Wausau

Contact [Matt Duvall](#)
(715) 261-1254

For additional information, follow the link below and click on "Attend"

<http://www.wisc.edu/uwcc/forestcoops/>

or contact Mark G. Rickenbach at (608) 262-0134

The American Tree Farm System was established in the 1940s as a response to concerns that America's private forests were being cut at unsustainable rates without reforestation. This award honors one of Wisconsin's 3,304 certified Tree Farmers who have done an exceptional job managing their woodlands.

Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year

A Marathon County couple, John & Maribeth Czerwonka, have been chosen as Wisconsin's 2003 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. This award, sponsored jointly by the American Tree Farm System and the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, honors those certified Tree Farmers who have done an exceptional job in the management of their woodlands.

The Czerwonkas own 90 acres of woodlands that they manage primarily for quality wildlife habitat. The second largest bobcat in the state was harvested from the property as well as two ten-point bucks. The property also supports a vibrant wild turkey population as well as a wide variety of songbirds and other non-game wildlife. Wetland enhancement and restoration are also a big part of the Czerwonka's management objective. Two fish ponds are maintained, providing a water source for a variety of wildlife, including otters.

Runner-up was Karen Miller and family of Adams County who have worked hard at making their 720 acre Tree Farm environmentally sustainable and profitable. For more information, contact [Geary Searfoss](#), Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee, 715-369-3475.

"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707
Phone: 608-267-7494 [Paul DeLong](#), Chief State Forester [Kirsten Held](#), Editor

To add or delete yourself from this distribution list, send an e-mail with "Wisconsin Forestry Notes" in the subject line to: forestry.webmail@dnr.state.wi.us
